



**IN SUPPORT OF HB1015
MD HEALTHY WORKING FAMILIES ACT – SEASONAL TEMPORARY WORKERS**

BEFORE THE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE– March 7, 2023

On behalf of the Ocean City hospitality industry, I am writing to express our widespread support for HB1015 Maryland Healthy Working Families Seasonal Temporary Workers. The vast majority of our community is comprised of small, family-owned businesses, many of whom have existed for generations. Each season, these businesses offer 12,000+ seasonal positions. Many of these jobs are entry level positions and are filled by teenagers, college kids and first-time employees. Entry-level jobs are meant to be just that, an entry into the job world. These hospitality job creators provide thousands of people with the opportunity to be part of a team. These entry level jobs also teach what it means to show up on time, how to deal with the public and how to budget.

While the paid sick leave bill had good intentions, it has caused many employers to carefully analyze and evaluate their hiring practices. One size does not fit all, and in our seasonal community, hiring temporary workers is critical to one's success. Paid sick leave regulations have shifted employment and led to a reduction in hours for many positions and caused earlier lay-offs. Additionally, businesses that traditionally stayed open in the shoulder seasons have closed in the fall/winter to avoid increased payroll costs. In an increasingly difficult business climate, this bill would allow businesses to keep employees on the payroll longer.

The Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association **respectfully requests a favorable report** for HB1015. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our position. I can be reached at 410-289-6733.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan L. Jones'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan L. Jones
Executive Director